

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

COUNTRY LAOS REPORT NO. TDCS -3/563,830
SUBJECT APPARENT GOOD CONDITION OF THE
C-46 CRASH SURVIVORS AND PATHET
LAO PLANS TO SEND THEM TO KHANG KHAY DATE DISTR 2 NOVEMBER 1963
PRECEDENCE PRIORITY
DATE OF INFO. 1-12 OCTOBER 1963 REFERENCES IN 52939
PLACE & DATE ACQ. [REDACTED]
APPRAISAL [REDACTED]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE [REDACTED]

1. (SUMMARY: ON THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS, FROM 10 TO 12 OCT, FIVE PRISONERS, ONE AMERICAN, TWO THAI, AND TWO CHINESE NATIONALISTS. GUARDED BY TWO PATHET LAO (PL) CARRYING RIFLES, WERE OBSERVED WALKING FROM THA KHONG (XD 3046) TO BAN SOP NAM (XD 2946). THE PRISONERS APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD CONDITION. PL INFORMED VILLAGERS IN THE AREA THAT THE PRISONERS WOULD BE SENT TO KHANG KHAY SHORTLY AND POSSIBLY TO GENEVA FROM THERE. COMMENT: [REDACTED] (TDCS-3/561,478)REPORTED ON THE STATUS OF THE PRISONERS BETWEEN 5 AND 29 SEPT.).

2. ON 10 OCT FIVE PRISONERS, INCLUDING ONE AMERICAN, TWO THAI,

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AND TWO CHINESE NATIONALISTS WERE OBSERVED WALKING ALONG THE TRAIL FROM THA KHONG (XD 3046) TO BAN SOP NAM (XD 2946), APPROXIMATELY ONE KILOMETER SOUTH. THE PRISONERS, WHO WERE UNFETTERED AND GUARDED BY TWO PL CARRYING RIFLES, APPEARED TO BE CLEAN AND HEALTHY, AND WERE COMPLETELY DRESSED AND WEARING SHOES. THE PRISONERS AND VILLAGERS EXCHANGED SMILES, AND THE AMERICAN WAVED TO GROUPS OF CHILDREN. THE PARTY RETURNED FROM BAN SOP NAM TO THA KHONG CAMP, HAVING WALKED FOR TWO HOURS. THE TRIP WAS REPEATED ON 11 AND 12 OCT, AND ON THEIR RETURN TO THA KHONG ON 12 OCT, THE PRISONERS CROSSED THE THA KHONG BRIDGE TO A DRY GOODS SHOP WHERE THE GUARDS PURCHASED MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS FOR THE PRISONERS.

3. FROM 10 TO 12 OCT, PL SOLDIERS AND PROPAGANDISTS INFORMED VILLAGERS THAT THE PRISONERS WOULD BE SENT TO KHANG KHAY IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND POSSIBLY TO GENEVA FROM THERE. THE PL STATED THAT THE PRISONERS WOULD BE RELEASED IF THE BRITISH OR SOVIET AMBASSADOR MADE A "PROPER" REQUEST. THE PL ALSO TOLD THE VILLAGERS THAT THE PRISONERS WERE BEING KEPT CLEAN AND HEALTHY TO PROVE TO THE WORLD THAT THE PL WERE NOT BARBARIANS.

4. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USAID CINCPAC PACAF PACFLT ARPAC.

END OF MESSAGE

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